

Arizona Community College Presidents' Council
Report to the Arizona Ready Education Council
October 4, 2012

Arizona Community Colleges: Strategic Vision
Student Progress and Outcomes Report 2012

- In 2011, Arizona's community colleges published a long-term strategic plan, which has since been incorporated into strategic planning processes at community colleges across the state. This plan outlined a clear vision for Arizona's ten community college districts and identified 30 key indicators of progress toward three major goal areas: access, retention, and completion. Many of these indicators are aligned with those included in the American Association for Community Colleges' Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) initiative, which will allow for comparisons with national norms in years to come. Some of these indicators are featured on the postsecondary section of the Arizona Ready Education Council website Report Card.
- A major function of the Strategic Vision is the collection, analysis, and publication of data pertaining to the 30 key indicators of progress, as well as the sharing of best practices and successful program models across the state. The community colleges recently released the first in a series of annual reports providing data related to student progress and outcomes in Arizona's community colleges. District-level comparisons are shown and national comparisons are provided where available.
- While data for some of the indicators were gathered on a pilot basis last year, 2012 is the first full year of Strategic Vision data collection. As such, the outcomes presented in the report reflect a baseline for comparison in future years. However, the data also provide a snapshot of areas where Arizona's community colleges are successfully serving students—in some cases much better than the national average—as well as those areas where further improvement is needed. The baseline data included in the report also enables Arizona's community colleges to set reasonable benchmarks for attainment related to core metrics in the coming years.
- Statewide and district-level data on these same 30 indicators will be used to guide continuous improvement efforts at community colleges across the state. Statewide data will also be shared with the Arizona Board of Regents and the Arizona Department of Education in order to assist in the improvement of P-20 educational pathways. We look forward to sharing the first of these annual reports with the Arizona Ready Education Council at a meeting in the near future.